



The President's Daily Brief

February 5, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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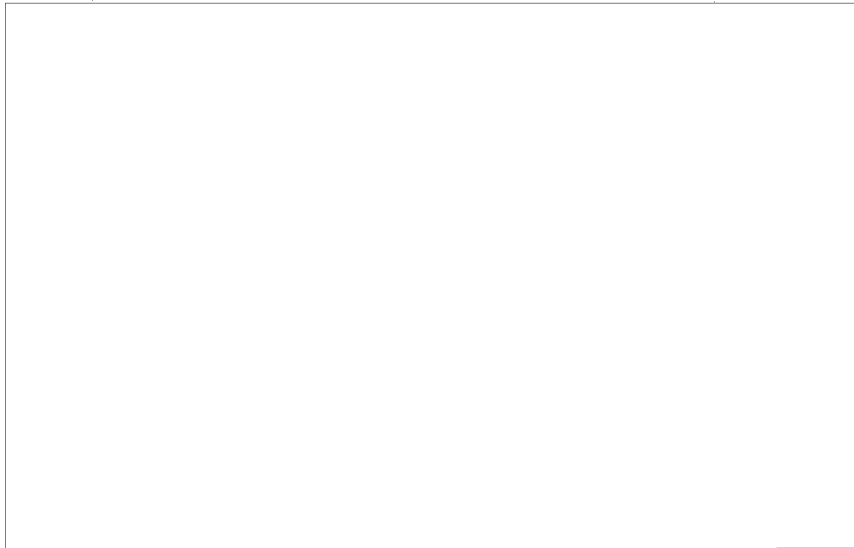
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USSR-ANGOLA

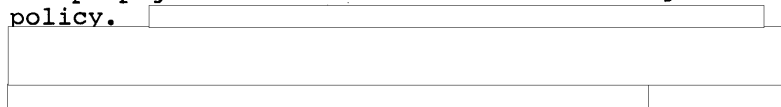


the publication in Izvestia on January 29 of an authoritative "observer" article which indicated that both Moscow and the MPLA would welcome the "consolidation" of all "patriotic forces" in Angola. The "patriotic forces" formulation has since appeared in Pravda and several other Soviet commentaries, and Brezhnev endorsed the idea in a message earlier this week to an international solidarity conference meeting in Luanda.

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At this point, however, neither Moscow nor Neto is really thinking in terms of a coalition government. The leader of the Soviet delegation to the Luanda conference dismissed the coalition formula out of hand, as Neto also has done on numerous occasions, branding opposition leaders Roberto and Savimbi as agents of the CIA and "foreign monopolies." Neto simply says he is convinced that the "rank and file" of the National Front and National Union will soon "join" the Popular Movement.

Moscow, meanwhile, has mounted a diplomatic and propaganda effort in defense of its Angolan policy.



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USSR-CHINA

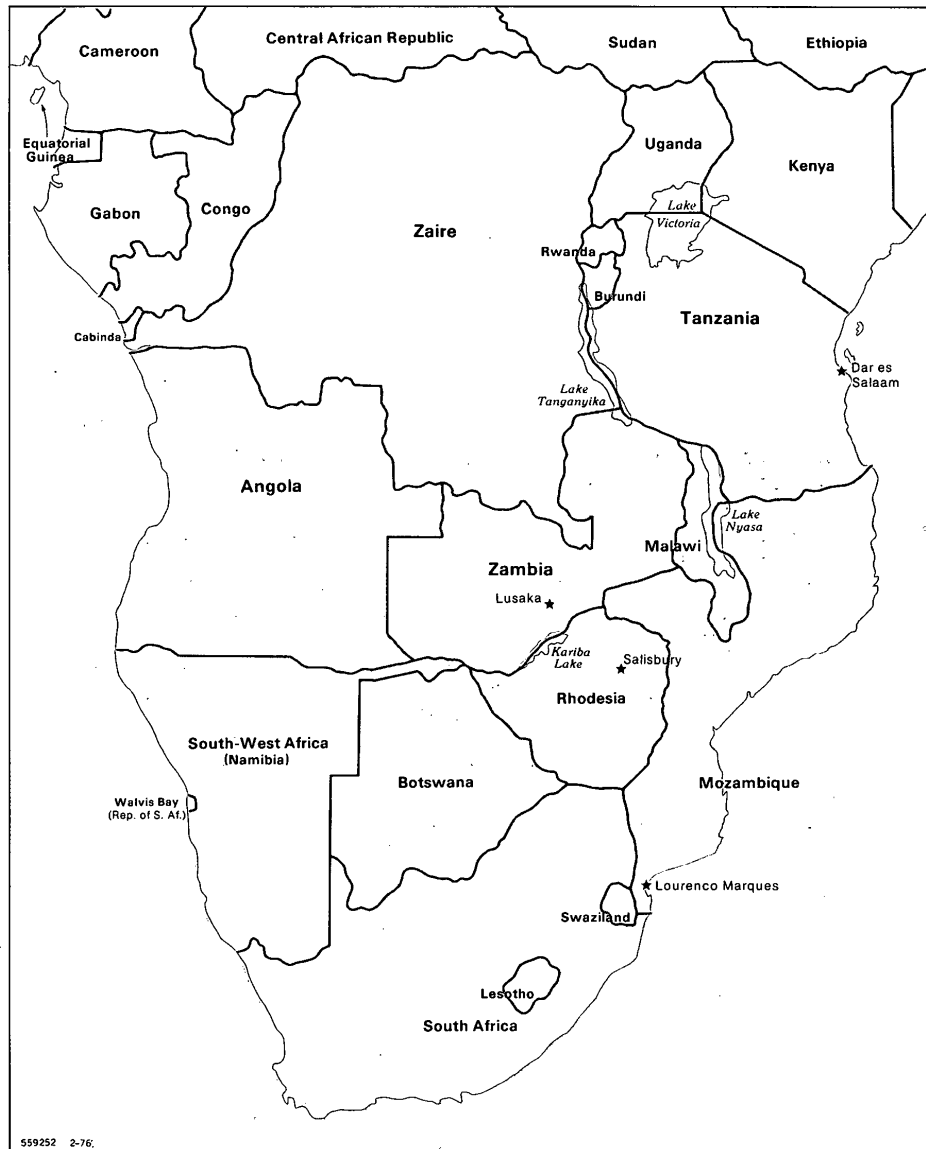
Mikhail Kapitsa, the leading China expert in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told Ambassador Stoessel Monday that Moscow freed six Chinese as a trade-off for China's release of the Soviet helicopter crew in late December.

Kapitsa belittled the Chinese gesture, noting again that it had been accompanied by a sharp increase in Peking's anti-Soviet propaganda. Moscow, he said, had officially protested China's invectives in late January.

Kapitsa also said Moscow had no plans to send its chief negotiator on the border talks back to Peking because China does not want to resolve the border problem.

As usual, Kapitsa was pessimistic about prospects for improvement in Sino-Soviet relations as long as Mao lives.

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RHODESIA

Rhodesian nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo told US officials in London early this week that his talks with Prime Minister Smith about a constitutional settlement are not going well and that he wants outside help to prevent collapse of the negotiations.

Although Nkomo made no specific requests of the US, he said that outside powers with interests in the area must now exert their influence to keep the talks going.

Nkomo is clearly concerned that if the talks fail, he could lose out to rival black nationalists outside Rhodesia who want to renew guerrilla warfare against Smith.

In recent weeks, insurgents have been transferred from camps in Zambia and Tanzania to northern Mozambique to prepare for renewed fighting. Although they do not yet appear to be equipped and ready for major operations,

some guerrillas have been crossing the border into Rhodesia from Mozambique and that terrorist incidents have increased.

Rhodesian security forces recently crossed into Mozambique during counterinsurgency operations.

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NOTES

Lebanese Muslim leaders are arguing among themselves over the division of the political spoils they expect to win from the previously dominant Christian political parties.

The Muslims' most immediate problem is how to apportion the handful of parliamentary seats that they expect to gain if Christians and Muslims are given equal representation in parliament.

Christian leaders too are divided, mostly on how best to ensure Syrian and Palestinian respect for those Christian prerogatives that will remain after a political settlement has been reached. Leaders of the various Christian factions have been trying to settle their differences during the past week before President Franjiah goes to Damascus to negotiate a final accord with Syrian President Asad.

* * *

British trawlers were scheduled to return last night to the fishing grounds in dispute with Iceland; Foreign Secretary Callaghan announced that British frigates would follow if the trawlers should be harassed by Iceland's patrol boats.

Callaghan told NATO ambassadors yesterday that London had accepted an Icelandic proposal for renewed talks toward a three-month agreement. He added that chances for a settlement are slim in view of Reykjavik's intransigence.

Icelandic Prime Minister Hallgrimsson has not indicated what proposals he intends to offer when the new talks begin. Foreign Minister Agustsson said Iceland would continue to enforce its ban on fishing within the 200-mile zone.

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Cyprus President Makarios has ordered criminal proceedings against Nicos Sampson for his role in the July 1974 coup in Cyprus and the illegal takeover of the presidency that triggered the Turkish invasion.

This represents a sharp departure from Makarios' policy of placating the rightists since his return to Cyprus in December 1974. Police have been placed on alert in case Sampson's followers try to retaliate.

Makarios claims Sampson has continued to plot against the government, but in fact the President is settling old scores and responding to pressure from the left to prosecute those involved in the coup. Makarios probably is also reacting to charges that his government has done little to solve the assassination of Ambassador Davies in August 1974, for which extreme rightists are suspected of being responsible.

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